

From: Blash Ed
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 9:00am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft and the Department of Justice, after three years in the federal courts, have finally managed to hash out the terms of an agreement and are prepared to settle. I am utterly relieved. This has gone on for long enough, and, while I believe the settlement deals too harshly with the Microsoft corporation, I would rather see it settled now than have it drag on interminably. The competitors of Microsoft appear to be sore losers and are seeking legal remedies to save their failures in the marketplace. Microsoft does not deserve the kind of treatment it has received, especially considering that its actions were not detrimental to the consumer. I am a very satisfied Microsoft consumer and I believe that the DOJ actions has gone on long enough and that it is hurting the economy.

Microsoft has made a number of concessions in the agreement to its competitors. Some of the terms agreed upon extend to policies and products that the Court of Appeals did not find to be in violation of antitrust legislation. The terms themselves are designed to prevent future antitrust infringements and to allow for a greater degree of competition within the technology industry.

Microsoft will, for example, share information with its competitors regarding the internal working of the Windows operating system. This will allow the competitors to place their own programs on the Windows platform and compete on Microsoft's own "turf." Clearly, this settlement is more than just a slap on Microsoft's corporate wrist.

Sincerely,

Ed Blash
9735 Redd Rambler Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19115

cc: Senator Rick Santorum